



**Illinois
Native
Plant
Society**

Illinois Native Plant Society

PO Box 9245
Springfield, IL 62791

**Minutes
State Governing Board Meeting
October 13, 2025**

Call to order

Board President Emily Dangremond called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

Board Members and Guests Present

Emily Dangremond, Susanne Masi, Becky Croteau, Nancy Smith, Eric Ulaszek, Kate Ahrens, Carolyn Villa, Daniel Lara-Newman, Trish Quintenz, Paul Marcum, Brian Charles, Joe Armstrong, Nick Seaton, Vlad Nevirkovets

Quorum

The Board achieved a quorum of 82% attendance.

Minutes

Treasurer Becky Croteau moved to approve the minutes of the INPS Governing Board for May 12, 2025 as emended. Board Member Carolyn Villa seconded the motion. The motion passed.

May minutes are finalized and posted on the INPS website [here](#).

President's report

Welcome Vlad Nevirkovets as NE Chapter Rep Board President Dangremond introduced the newest Board member, Vlad Nevirkovets, interim president of the Northeast Chapter.

Meeting Focus on Chapters Board President Dangremond reminded the INPS Governing Board that we reduced the frequency of Governing Board frequency to four meetings per year so that the Chapter presidents can focus more on local efforts and, consequently, the Governing Board meetings will also focus more on issues facing the chapters.

Bylaws Updates and Board Elections Board President Emily iterated the need to update the State bylaws to require that Chapters use the State's bylaws. The Chapters will need to set up standing rules, which will allow Chapters more flexibility while still specifying positions like president, secretary, and treasurer.

Board President Dangremond also provided an update on the Nominations Committee: Becky Croteau has agreed to stand for another term as Treasurer. The search for President and member at large still continues, with Emily moving to the Past President role and Carolyn Villa moving into the Vice-President role.

Treasurer's report

Incorrect Address Still Posted Board Treasurer Becky Croteau expressed a concern that some correspondence, including checks, is not arriving as expected because some forms and website pages still list the old Chicago address. She reiterated the organization's official address to Springfield and emphasized the importance of using the correct address for all mail and membership forms.

2024 Membership Dues Distribution The Board discussed disbursement of membership funds to the Chapters and the difficulty calculating the updated amounts giving ongoing issues with the membership data.

Board Member Trish Quintenz moved to distribute the funds to the Chapters using the same amounts that were distributed in 2023. Board Member Brian Charles seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Certificate of Deposit for Grant Funds The board reviewed the status of a CD renewal and discussed potentially separating grant funds for 2027 into a CD to earn higher interest while maintaining security

Board Member Brian Charles moved to invest grant money in a CD to earn more interest until the funds are needed. Board Member Erik Ulaszek seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sales Tax Reporting Treasurer Becky Croteau raised concerns about the inconsistent reporting of sales tax by chapter treasurers and suggested creating a calendar-based system to improve communication. Also, a Zoom session for training the Chapter treasurers and the needed information is to be planned.

Grants Report

Budget Approved for 2026 Vice-President Susanne Masi presented the budget for the 2026 grant cycle. Suzanne, who is leaving the board after 11 years of service, invited her replacement, Board Member Brian Charles to co-present the proposal.

Vice-President Susanne Masi moved to accept a grant award budget of \$24,000 over two years, with \$12,000 allocated each for years 2026 and 2027 to fund 8 research grants of

\$3,000 each and to consolidate the survey grant into the main research grant program, adding a new category for analytical floristic projects. Board Member Brian Charles seconded the motion The motion passed with Board Member Vlad Nevirkovets abstaining.

The award amounts will be finalized in April after awardees are chosen. The board also agreed to offer free membership to grantees upon completion of their work.

Membership and Website Report

Hosted Emails Recommendation Board Member and Webmaster Kate Ahrens recommended transitioning to DreamHost for email hosting, emphasizing security and 24/7 monitoring, and suggested that the organization consider this option despite the added cost.

Delete Membership Info from Non-Hosted Email Accounts Board Member Ahrens addressed the need to manually manage email lists and delete personal emails containing member data to enhance security. The Board, after clarifying the request, agreed to take steps to remove sensitive information.

Board President Dangremond highlighted the importance of using hosted emails for INPS business and offered to assist Treasurer Becky Croteau with the email transition process.

Northeast Chapter Update and Event Management Daniel shared progress on helping the Northeast Chapter transition from Gmail to DreamHost emails and outlined efforts to streamline event management and membership tracking.

Annual Meeting

Northeast Chapter Update and Event Management Board President Dangremond discussed the 2025 Annual Gathering, complementing the INPS Southern Chapter for a well-run, well-received event, despite hot weather.

Board Member Paul Marcum expressed support for the INPS Forest Glen Chapter hosting the 2026 annual gathering, suggesting August or September. He mentioned the need to coordinate with university events.

Organizational Practices

Meeting Schedule for 2026 The Board agreed to hold meetings on the second Monday of each quarter, starting in January, with four meetings annually to ensure financial reporting and board engagement.

Old Business

Code of Conduct Board President Dangremond discussed the need to finalize and distribute a Code of Conduct for the organization, emphasizing the importance of Chapter boards to review and provide feedback.

New Business

Mark Widrlechner The board discussed Mark Widrlechner's completed work, which will be published in the next Harbinger, and considered funding a future workshop in northeastern Illinois, budgeting approximately \$1,000 for travel and expenses.

Bill McKnight Workshop Board President Dangremond suggested INPS consider a request to sponsor an event organized by Bill McKnight, which aligns with the organization's mission of honoring natural history and flora. This event will be held in New Harmony Indiana from April 26-29, focusing on the Wabash River ecosystem.

The group discussed sponsorship options with President Dangremond proposing a \$3,000 level that would include an exhibit table and registration. Some Board members expressed concerns about the cost-benefit ratio and wanted to send a second attendee for \$500.

Treasurer Becky Croteau suggested allocating \$3,500 in support of the New Harmony Symposium. Board Member Paul Marcum seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Board also considered sending additional representatives beyond the required one registration. Some noted that, while the exhibit table would be in the same room as presentations, most visitor traffic occurring during mixers and meals rather than during talks.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 6:39 PM by Board President Emily Dangremond.

Next Meeting

January 12, 2026 by Zoom